Case 2792

Cynolebias opalescens Myers, 1942 and *Cynolebias splendens* Myers, 1942 (Osteichthyes, Cyprinodontiformes): proposed conservation of the specific names

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the specific names of two species of killifishes, *Cynolebias opalescens* Myers, 1942 and *C. splendens* Myers, 1942, which are the subjects of governmental and international conservation agency protection. The names are threatened by long unused senior subjective synonyms that have been resurrected recently.

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1. Faria & Muller (1937) described two species of killifishes (family RIVULIDAE) from south-eastern Brazil using the names *Cynopoecilus fluminensis* (p. 99) and *Gynopoecilus* [sic, an apparent typographical error for *Cynopoecilus*] *sandrii* (p. 98, fig. 1). The paper in which these species were described was in a nautical journal and was not picked up by the *Zoological Record*. The names apparently (see Costa & Lacerda, 1988) had not been used in any scientific literature until Lacerda (1987) commented on the distributional status of these species (using the widely accepted senior generic synonym *Cynolebias*), noted that the names were senior subjective synonyms of *C. opalescens* and *C. splendens* respectively, both of Myers (1942), and adopted the earlier synonyms. Costa & Lacerda (1988) also adopted the senior synonyms in their redescriptions of the two species.

2. In 1942, Myers described *Cynolebias opalescens* (p. 107) and *C. splendens* (p. 110). Lazara (1984) listed nine literature citations for each of these names, during the period 1942 to 1982 (exclusive of those cited in para. 3), including both scientific and aquarist literature.

3. In 1975 *Cynolebias opalescens* and *C. splendens* were included in the initial record of Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) and those names have been maintained on the CITES list to date. The Association of Systematic Collections list these names in its summary of (United States) federally controlled wildlife (Estes & Sessions, 1983). The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) included both species in its *Red Data Book* (Miller, 1969) and continue to recognize these species by Myers's (1942) names in its revised *Red Data Book* (Miller, 1977) and the *Red List of Threatened Animals* (IUCN, 1988) as endangered species.

4. Efforts to regulate international trade, or in situ conservation, of these species depend, in part, on stable nomenclature. At present, specimens of these species presumably could be exported into CITES member nations, without permit, under their recently resurrected senior synonyms.

5. As the two species under discussion have been accorded protection by both governmental and international conservation agencies under the names *Cynolebias opalescens* and *C. splendens*, and as the specific names *sandrii* and *fluminensis* were unused for a period of 50 years from the time the names were first proposed, during which period the junior synonyms were used in a variety of scientific and aquarist publications, resurrection of the senior synonyms would cause unnecessary and preventable confusion for persons outside the community of zoological systematists.

6. The International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the following specific names for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:
   (a) *fluminensis* Faria & Muller, 1937, as published in the binomen *Cynopoecilus fluminensis*;
   (b) *sandrii* Faria & Muller, 1937, as published in the binomen *Gynopoecilus* (= *Cynopoecilus*) *sandrii*;

(2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
   (a) *opalescens* Myers, 1942, as published in the binomen *Cynolebias opalescens*;
   (b) *splendens* Myers, 1942, as published in the binomen *Cynolebias splendens*;

(3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
   (a) *fluminensis* Faria & Muller, 1937, as published in the binomen *Cynopoecilus fluminensis* and as suppressed in (1)(a) above;
   (b) *sandrii* Faria & Muller, 1937, as published in the binomen *Gynopoecilus* (= *Cynopoecilus*) *sandrii* and as suppressed in (1)(b) above.

References

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